

Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key



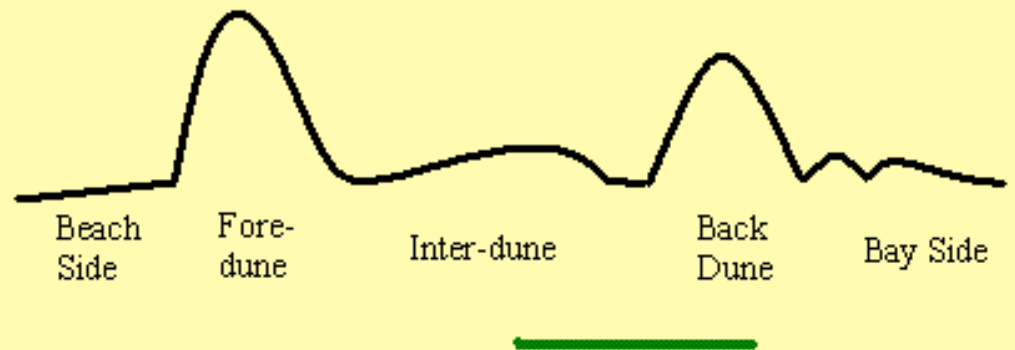
Class: *Pinus rigida*/*Hudsonia tomentosa* Woodland (Pitch Pine Dune Woodland)

TNC Alliance Code: II.A.4.N.a.26. 6117

CMI Code: 6117

Type Locator:
Restricted to Fire Island

Cross Section:



TNC Alliance Description: This maritime woodland occurs adjacent to shrubland or salt marsh. The canopy is composed solely of *Pinus rigida* that is 5-10 meters tall. The shrub layer is sparse with *Myrica pensylvanica* most common and *Gaylussaccia baccata* present. Vines are a prominent component, especially *Smilax rotundifolia*. Short shrubs are of sparse cover and include *Rubus flagellaris*, *Aronia melanocara*, *Gaylussacia baccata*, *Rhus copallina*. *Hudsonia tomentosa* is not characteristic of this vegetation on Fire

Island. The herbaceous layer is sparse with *Panicum virgatum* and *Schizachyrium scoparium* commonly occurring. Portions of Fire Island support a variant of this community in which *Pinus rigida* is stunted, reaching only 2m in height.

Photo Interpretation: This type is found throughout Fire Island behind the primary dune. Green to dark-green interspersed with brown to tan coloring. Polygons appear splotchy signature due to varying canopy heights within one polygon (signifying open canopy of *Pinus rigida* with shrubs/herbaceous layer below). Bright patches of sand are often seen within the polygon.

Aerial Photo Samples:



Field Notes: Open canopy of *Pinus rigida*, with varied understory of shrubs, dwarf shrubs, and herbs. Bare sand also prominent. Located along backdunes.

Ground Photos:



Similar Alliances:

Pinus thunbergii Forest (Black Pine Forest):

Pinus rigida - 3 twisted needles per fascicle, yellowish in color, found in natural areas

Pinus thunbergii - 2 needles per fascicle, dark green in color, found close to homes and in state and county parks